



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,767	09/19/2005	William Anthony Denne	6579-0440WOUS	4684

49698 7590 02/05/2007
MICHAUD-DUFFY GROUP LLP
306 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
SUITE 206
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

EXAMINER

GRANT, ALVIN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3723

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,767

Applicant(s)

DENNE, WILLIAM ANTHONY

Examiner

Alvin J. Grant

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/22/05 & 9/11/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. **Claim 8** is objected to because of the following informality:

In line 5, it seems that "edges of the ink" should read, "edges of the surface".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-13**, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by King et al. 7,140,113.

King et al. discloses a method of fabricating a blade for a razor, comprising the steps of: providing a substrate including a combustible surface; generating a zirconia based ink onto the combustible surface such that the; the step of generating includes screen printing the zirconia based ink onto the combustible surface (**col. 9, lines 20-42**); the zirconia based ink includes partially stabilized zirconia and fully stabilized zirconia; the combustible surface is hydrophilic; and the combustible surface is a plastic film of high

surface finish ink wets the substrate to form a plurality of sharply pointed meniscus to serve as cutting surfaces; and firing the ink to burn away the combustible surface and to harden a rounded, sharp edge on the plurality of meniscus (**see Figs. 1, 4 and 5; and col. 6 line 10-col. 10 line 67**).

4. **Claims 15 and 19-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yellon 2,989,804.

Yellon discloses a blade for a wet shave razor comprising a substrate curved along a direction of blade movement to conform to a contour of the skin of a user, the blade substrate defining a plurality of holes each having a periphery, a leading portion of the hole serving as a cutting edge; each of the holes generally is rectangular; each of the holes is generally diamond-shaped or partially diamond-shaped (**col. 3, lines 64-69**); the holes defined by a substrate are arranged in an array; the array includes columns along a direction of blade movement, and wherein adjacent columns are staggered in relation to one another; and the portion of the holes serving as a guard become the portion of the holes serving as a cutting edge when the direction of blade movement is reversed, and wherein the portion of the holes serving as a cutting edge becomes the portion of the holes serving as a guard when the direction of blade movement is reversed (**col.2, line 37-col. 4, line 38**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al. King et al. is described above. King et al. does not specifically disclose the radius of the edge of the meniscus. However, selecting the size of the meniscus edge radius is a matter of engineering expedience since any appropriate radius for cutting under prescribed conditions would be appropriate. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the blade of King et al. to have a radius of 50 nanometers **or less** in view of engineering expedience.

7. **Claims 16-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yellon in view of King et al. 7,140,113.

Yellon is described above. Yellon does not specifically disclose a blade having a substrate made of fully or partially stabilized zirconia. King et al. discloses a blade made of stable and unstable zirconia so as to provide blades that are suited for use under different temperature conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the blade of Yellon to have fully and partially stabilized zirconia as taught by King et al. so as to provide blades that are suited for use under different at different temperature conditions.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J. Grant whose telephone number is (571) 272-4484. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alvin J Grant
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3723

ajg

